

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: May 27, 2011
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 898
AUTHOR: L. Alejo

BILL SUMMARY: Crime Victims: Restitution: Fine

This bill would increase the minimum restitution fine for misdemeanor and felony offenses to \$150 and \$300, respectively.

FISCAL SUMMARY

While the increased fines could result in additional revenue up to \$28 million annually, the Victim Compensation Government Claims Board (VCGCB) expects a decrease in the rate of collection as some offenders will be unable to pay the higher fine. Thus, the VCGCB indicates this measure will result in additional revenue to the Restitution Fund of approximately \$14 million annually. Due to the time delay between the imposition of fines and actual collection, the impact of the increase may not be fully realized until 2014-15.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill because it will increase revenue to the Restitution Fund, which is projected to become insolvent by 2012-13. While the impact of the revenue increase will not be realized until 2014-15, in conjunction with other solutions, the increase to the fines will help the Restitution Fund remain solvent.

Existing law requires courts to impose a restitution fine on any person convicted of a fine, as specified. Current law sets the minimum fine at \$100 for misdemeanor offenses and \$200 for felony offenses.

This bill would increase the minimum restitution fines for misdemeanor and felony offenses to \$150 and \$300, respectively.

		SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
Code/Department		LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
Agency or Revenue		CO	PROP							Fund
Type		RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	Code
1308/PenIt Felony		RV	No	----- See Fiscal Summary -----						0214
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>									
0214	Restitution Fund									

Analyst/Principal (0241) J. Sturges	Date	Program Budget Manager Lisa Ann L. Mangat	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)